

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A surge protection apparatus connected between an AC electrical utility power line and a load, comprising:

a utility meter housing;

a voltage input coupled to the AC electrical utility power line, the AC electrical utility power line having a nominal AC voltage of at least about 120 volts;

an inductor provided within the utility meter housing, the inductor coupled between the voltage input and the load; and

a protective barrier provided within the utility meter housing and interposed between the inductor and the load, the protective barrier configured to physically isolate the inductor from the load.

2. (Currently Amended) A surge protection apparatus connected between an AC electrical utility power line and a load, comprising:

a utility meter housing;

a voltage input coupled to the AC electrical utility power line, the AC electrical utility power line having a nominal AC voltage of at least about 120 volts;

an polymeric positive temperature coefficient device (PPTC) coupled between the voltage input and the load; and

a protective barrier interposed between the PPTC and the load within the utility meter housing, the protective barrier configured to physically isolate the PPTC from the load.

3. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a polymeric positive temperature coefficient device (PPTC) connected in series with the inductor between the voltage source and the load, wherein the protective barrier is configured to physically isolate both the inductor and the PPTC from the load.

4. (Currently amended) A surge protection apparatus connected between an electrical power line and a load, comprising:

a utility meter housing;

a voltage input coupled to the electrical power line;

an inductor, a separate resistor, and a polymeric positive coefficient temperature device (PPTC) positioned within the utility meter housing and coupled in series between the voltage input and the load.

5. (Original) The surge protection apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a protective barrier interposed between the load and the inductor, the resistor and the PPTC, the protective barrier configured to physically isolate the inductor, the resistor and the PPTC from the load.

6-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 5 wherein the protective barrier includes a protective sleeve.

25. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 4 wherein the separate resistor has a resistance of at least 10 ohms.

26. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 25 wherein the separate resistor has a resistance of approximately 50 ohms.

27. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 4 wherein the separate resistor includes axial leads.

28. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 4 wherein the inductor is interposed between the voltage input and PPTC.

29. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 4 wherein the voltage input is coupled to an AC electrical utility power line.

30. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the protective barrier includes a protective sleeve that receives the inductor.

31. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 2 wherein the protective barrier includes a protective sleeve that receives the PPTC.

32. (Previously presented) A surge protection apparatus connected between an electrical power line source and a load, comprising:

a voltage input coupled to the electrical power line;

an inductor coupled between the voltage input and the load; and

a protective barrier interposed between the inductor and the load, the protective barrier configured to physically isolate the inductor from the load, the protective barrier including a protective sleeve that receives the inductor.

33. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 32 further comprising a PPTC coupled in series with the inductor between the voltage input and the load, the PPTC received by the protective sleeve.

34. (Currently amended) A surge protection apparatus connected between an electrical utility power line source and a load, comprising:

a utility meter housing;

a voltage input coupled to the electrical utility power line; and

an inductor and a polymeric positive coefficient temperature device (PPTC) positioned within the utility meter housing and coupled in series between the voltage input and the load, the inductor interposed between the PPTC and the voltage input.

35. (Currently amended) The surge protection apparatus of claim 34 further comprising:

a protective barrier retained within the utility meter housing, the protective barrier
configured to physically isolate both the inductor and the PPTC from the load.

36. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 35 wherein the
protective barrier includes a protective sleeve that receives the inductor and the PPTC.

37. (Currently amended) A surge protection apparatus connected between an electrical
utility power line and a load, comprising:

a utility meter housing;

a voltage input coupled to the electrical utility power line;

an inductor, a resistor having a resistance of at least about 10 ohms, and a
polymeric positive coefficient temperature device (PPTC) positioned within the utility
meter housing and coupled in series between the voltage input and the load.

38. (Previously presented) The surge protection apparatus of claim 37 wherein the
resistor includes axial leads.